



405 SW 6th Street
Redmond, OR 97756
p: 541.923.1018
f: 541.923.6441
www.housing-works.org

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Attention: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee.

Housing Works is writing to support SB 5505, and the Housing Alliance request for \$250 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon through the LIFT program.

Housing Works is the regional housing authority for Central Oregon, serving Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties. Since 1977, Housing Works has developed over 1,200 deed restricted affordable housing units in addition to managing the region's Housing Choice Voucher program serving nearly 1,300 households. Our mission is "providing dignity through housing" and as such, our goal is to help lift families from poverty by providing safe and affordable housing. Central Oregon is the fastest growing region in the State. As a result more than a quarter of the region's renters pay more than half of their income on rent.

Housing Works has relied on the LIFT program to develop over 200 units of affordable housing, almost all in the region's smallest rural communities. In addition, we have almost 300 units in our development pipeline that cannot be developed without the additional support for the program provide by SB 5505. Since 2015, the Legislature has committed \$320 million in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, and OHCS has awarded \$232 million which has funded over 3,600 affordable homes. These homes are being built across Oregon – from Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Madras, Prineville, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between.

Across Oregon, affordable housing developers have relied upon LIFT funding to develop affordable housing communities. The LIFT program is, by far, the most productive affordable housing funding source provided by the State. We are requesting that the Committee support the LIFT program and the Housing Alliance request for \$250 million in Article XI-Q bonds to match the need for new affordable communities in our growing State.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation, and your service to our State.

Sincerely,

David Brandt

David Brandt
Executive Director